

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 448

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mt. Moriah Lodge #18, Free & Accepted Masons.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to honor those organizations that have established a legacy of service and philanthropy in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Moriah Lodge #18, one of the oldest Regular and Recognized Masonic lodges in the State of Tennessee, is celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, first chartered by the Tennessee Grand Lodge on May 27, 1817, Mt. Moriah Lodge #18 was originally located in downtown Murfreesboro, on the third floor of a building on East Main Street; the members of the lodge met in that location for nearly eighty years; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1890s, the building burned down, and the lodge relocated around the corner to South Spring Street until 1969, at which time the building that currently houses the #18 lodge was completed; upon the completion of the current building, a time capsule, which the lodge will open during its bicentennial celebration, was placed inside the marker stone on the front steps; and

WHEREAS, throughout its two centuries of existence, Mt. Moriah Lodge #18 has had many great men serve as Worshipful Master; Captain William Lytle, a Revolutionary War hero and Murfreesboro's founding father, was the first to hold the position, and James D. Richardson, former Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives, State Senator, and Congressman, sat as head of the lodge in 1869-1870 and again in 1875, serving as Grand Master of the Tennessee Grand Lodge in 1873; and

WHEREAS, located at the geographical center of the State, Murfreesboro's Masonic lodge has been instrumental in the fraternal relations of Freemasonry in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mt. Moriah Lodge #18 has survived and prospered over the course of 200 years of Tennessee history, and the lodge should be recognized on attaining this milestone; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the good people of Murfreesboro in commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mt. Moriah Lodge #18, Free & Accepted Masons, and extend to its officers and members our best wishes for much continued success and fellowship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.